

To: Rocio Hernandez[rocio.hernandez@lacity.org]; Paola Bassignana[paola.bassignana@lacity.org]
From: Councilmember Rodriguez
Sent: Fri 12/20/2019 12:26:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: Foothill Blvd looks like skid row, transients in nature garden...this community needs HELP!

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: RedTango <redtango@tangoland.com>

Date: Thu, Dec 19, 2019 at 11:50 AM

Subject: Foothill Blvd looks like skid row, transients in nature garden...this community needs HELP!

To: <36373@lapd.online>, <eve.sinclair@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, <22918@lapd.online>, <dominique.vitti@lacty.org>

I am reaching out to whomever is available to read this at the moment about the dire situation of our community I have written many times to several of you listed here in the past.

Our community is at a crisis point. Foothill Blvd is starting to look like skid row and the park never stays clean for long. Although this is exhausting and thankless work, I continue to call in encampments and make sure the community nature garden on Fenwick stays clean.

There is currently a camper in a bright orange tent sitting in the middle of the garden. This is less than one minute's walk from my home and at the end of a residential street. I have informed the garden caretaker, Roger Klemm, about this issue and once again he will have to be the one to deal with the situation. We cannot call the police and calls to the city for clean up will result in a 6-8 week lead time. It took months and months to extricate the last dug in campers who screamed and yelled at me when I tried to talk reason with them. When they were finally out there were piles of trash and feces to clean up. Come on, already. It's like a community of animals up here.

Beyond that, which we will have to handle on our own, I have called in the tents on Foothill ten times now in the last 18 months. There has been zero progress from these call ins. Again, there is the 6-8 week ramp up time and once the crews come out to offer help and get them off the sidewalk they come back in a few hours. For all of this effort, things are worse now than they were last summer.

The stretch of sidewalk between the Coco's entrance on Foothill and the intersection of Sunland/Foothill is a filthy, dangerous, out of control strip of tents at this point.

One of my biggest questions: These are help resistant people. They do not want to go into shelters. I have spoken to the very first guy who set up his tent there last summer and has sort of introduced the sidewalk way of living to other local transients..now, it's the norm. He has told me twice he does not want to go into a shelter. Now, we've got a growing stretch of tents, shopping carts and squalor along Foothill and residents are STILL calling to get this cleaned up! Still!

So here's what else I don't understand: If we cannot get them off the sidewalks legally if we don't have shelter, what happens when we DO have shelter and they refuse it? Why is it that a few individuals have the ENTIRE community of thousands of people over a barrel? Is this really where the conversation just hits a wall..if they don't take the shelter and prefer to sit and do drugs in tents, they get to do this as long as they want, a minute's walk from my own front door?

How do you even HAVE a community without rules, structure, accountability and expectations?

There are home owners, business owners, people hard at work in the shops here who are watching their safe and clean community being constantly degraded and there are NO RULES and NO ENFORCEMENT in regards to any of this. Where are the adults? Why are grown men allowed to set this big ugly tent up in a community nature garden simply because they refuse to go into a shelter and WANT to live on the streets? I don't get to live in my house for free. Why do they have the freedom to decline help then set up this dangerous, drug filled subculture right in the middle of where I live and invest in?

Where are the adults here? This is what I just cannot wrap my head around. The wash is over run, our park is a party zone for druggies, Foothill is now a skid row, which resulted in drug sales operating out of one tent and Richard, the heroin dealer, being arrested for cracking someone's head open. This is happening right where we all shop and eat. Again, where are the adults?

The city clean up system is a complete failure, these people know they can come right back and have about 2 months to screw around and do whatever they want before a clean up crew comes. Then, rinse and repeat. And the anger residents are feeling as they are being violated more often is at a boiling point, this isn't just me. Community online groups are filled with people fed up that the law only works one way...to protect people who REFUSE HELP and are dug into our sidewalks and sometimes right in front of our homes now.

Dominique, I called and talked to you several months ago for you to clarify what exactly the tent laws are now, because at the time you did not know..is it legal to have a tent up, obstructing the sidewalk, 24/7...forever? What exactly is the law? Does everyone now get to set up a tent anywhere they want and sell/do drugs in it, forever?

Eve, you never respond to my e-mails but I will continue to reach out. You know I painted that DOT box at the corner, you and your daughter came by once and helped out a bit. Have you seen what that area looks like now, just a few years later? I wouldn't get near that DOT box now if you paid me

What is going on? I get there are ACLU rulings but other cities don't look like this. Glendale doesn't, Montrose, La Crescenta, La Canada don't. How

are they able to ACLU rules."

Why can't we? Why are all of us held hostage by a few people who want to lay around on the sidewalk, steal bikes, do drugs, pester people for money and even masturbate in front of children? Is there some resignation that people here in Sunland don't mind this? Is it assumed we have some sort of unique tolerance and patience for dangerous crime and public drug use? We are SICK of it! I just don't get why other communities are able to within the law keep a lid on things and we're dealing with a growing cesspool of people who have no accountability and no respect for the community.

Even trying to get photos of the sprawling mess from across the street has resulted in me being screamed at and threatened. In my community. One minute's drive from my own house.

Screamed at and threatened.

I also, while I am here, would like to relay a story about a homeless woman that reaches onto the other side of the spectrum. She is a well known mentally ill individual who does drugs then exposes herself and runs around in traffic. She has been a danger to the community and to herself for some time. In the past week, she was seen running around on Foothill between cars. 911 was called in an attempt to get her off the streets and to safety. They would not attend to the call, and the women ended up being hit by a car and last I heard, was dying in intensive care. I am still trying to find out what happened to her.

This was so preventable! I am beyond being able to comprehend what is going on here with everything. There always seems to be indifference or excuses and no accountability with any of this. Citizens now are expected to deal with out of control people, try to get them to take their tents down and risk being beaten. Grandmothers have to pull their grandchildren out of ice cream stores when mentally ill druggies come by and start masturbating in front of them.

Yes, this really happened at Baskin Robbins.

If other communities can successfully manage this and stay within all of the limits and rulings that are in the way, why can't we? What is at the core of this ongoing reluctance to get involved with ANY of this issue? Here we are at the end of 2019 and our community is dominated by drop out meth heads who are constantly breaking into our cars and know just how much to steal to evade prosecution. It's not all about them. They don't get to run our community.

Or do they? A homeless person was over heard making a remark after Officer Albert Torres passed away that "now that he is dead he can take the park over."

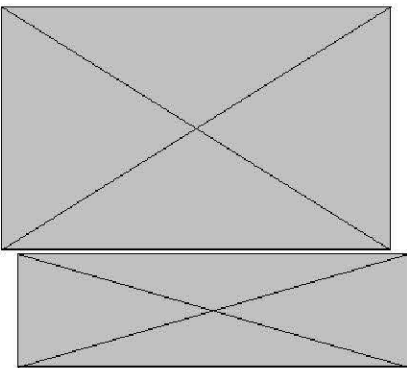
Are you going to let this happen? Is he right? Or are we finally going to take our city back and fill this place with city pride? We have a brand new shopping center waiting for new tenants and all we get are new tents. HELP US TAKE OUR CITY BACK!

Thank you, have a nice holiday and see you next year.

Cynthia Petrovic
[REDACTED]

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Sincerely,



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